CHAPTER 9

HONESTLY, THAT'S GOTTEN ME ALL BUBBLY, HOWEVER...
MY GIRLFRIEND SAID, "PLEASE DON'T COME TO HATE ME."

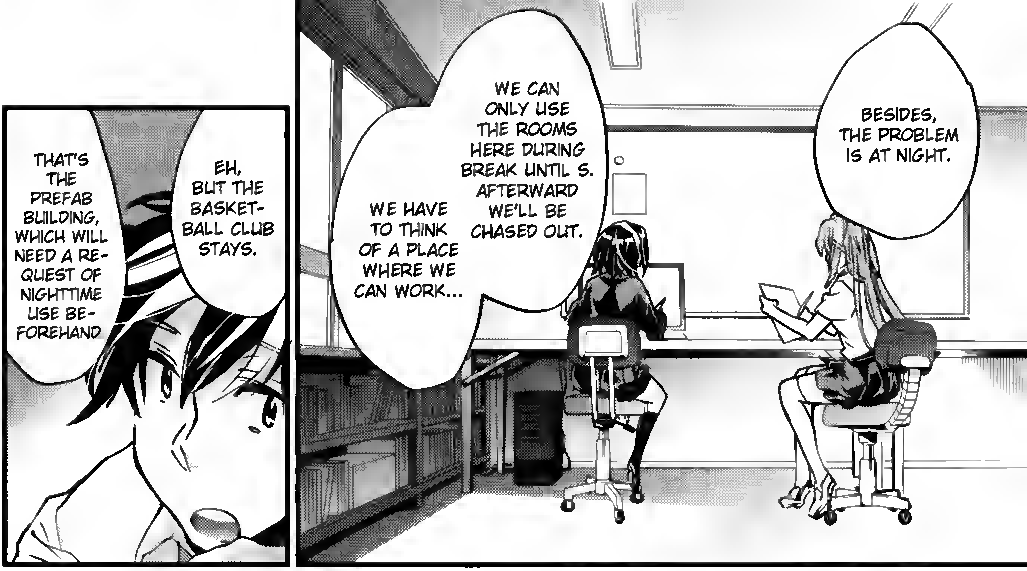
第9話

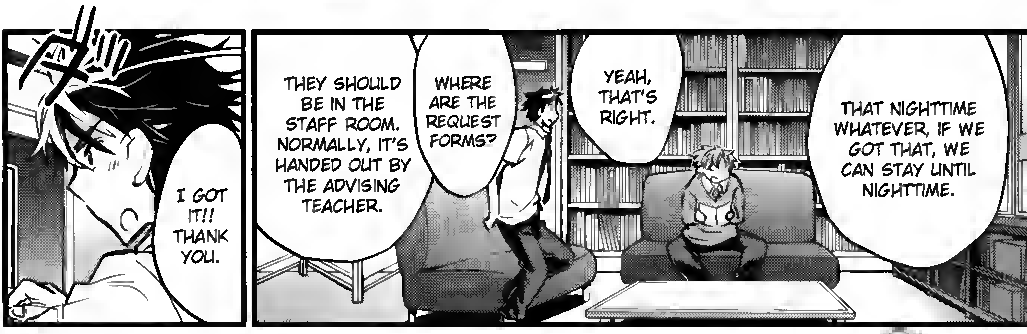
SIGH...
MY GIRLFRIEND'S WORKING SO HARD, YET I CAN'T DO A SINGLE THING.
WELL, YEAH.
RIGHT NOW, OTHER THAN THAT, IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME.
Gっっっっ
O-ku-da-
ベリャ

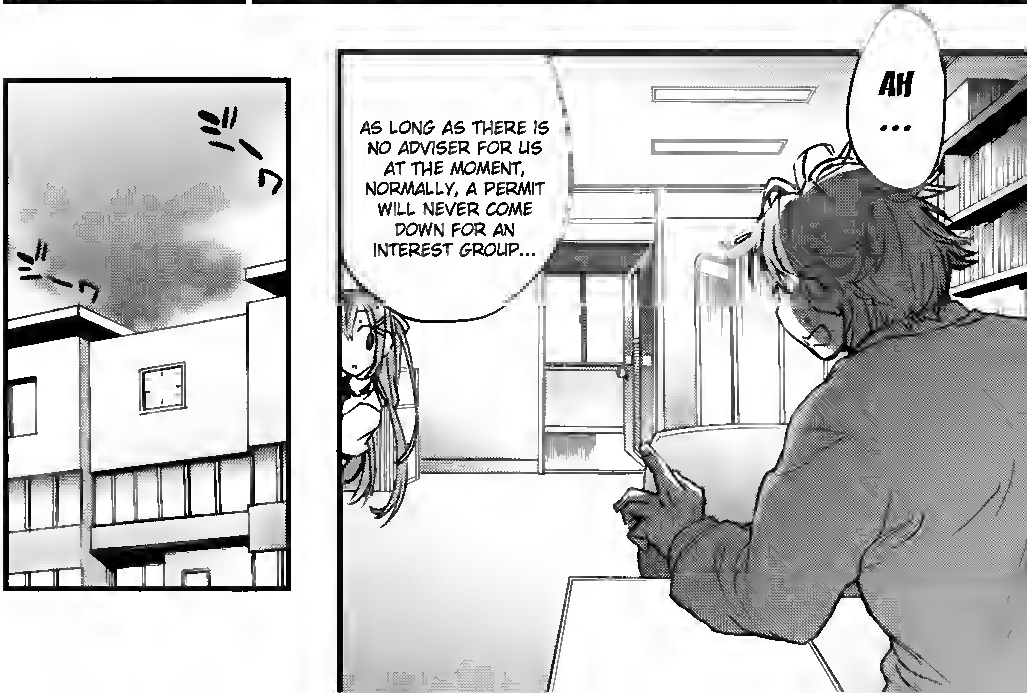
HUH?
JUST ACCEPT THAT THIS IS HOW IT USUALLY IS?
THIS GUY IS A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL
YOU SURE?
THE THING IS, IF THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CREATE, THERE WILL ALSO BE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T CREATE
No way, no way
KAI, DO YOU WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING YOURSELF?
SOMEHOW, THE PEOPLE THAT CREATE ARE RARE.
THEN, IF YOU LET HER OBSERVE YOU AS SHE WISHES UNTIL SHE'S COMPLETELY SATISFIED, YOU'LL BE HELPING OUT.
STILL, I WANT TO BE OF SOME USE TO SHIROI-SAN.
CRIES-

SHE'S CUTE. THAT'S WHAT'S TROUBLING.
TO BE OBSERVED AS IF BEING LICKED ALL OVER BY SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL CAN ONLY BE SEEN AS A REWARD.
EH ...
YOU'RE LIVING IN LUXURY.
THAT'S... IF I CAN. I'D RATHER NOT.
THE PARTS THAT I TOUCH, KAI-KUN CAN ALSO TOUCH.
NO WAY...
TO HAVE THOSE SPARKLING EYES FALL UPON ME...
SOMEHOW, IT'S LIKE I SHOULDN'T TOUCH HER...
KAI-KUN?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO TOUCH ME..?
NO, NO, I WANT TO! I REALLY WANT TO.

IF THAT STANDS UP...
I WANT TO SEE THAT TOO!
TH-THEN, H...
THAT'S A NO FOR NOW.
No-H, definitely!!
EEEEH, WHYYY?
BECAUSE, RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO BECOME BETTER MORE QUICKLY.
EEH!!
THEN, BEFORE SHIROI-SAN'S ART GETS BETTER, I'LL HAVE TO KEEP IT IN?
(IT'S PROBLEMATIC.) I WON'T ASK, SO IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
W-WELL, THERE ARE LOTS OF REASONS


BESIDES, THE PROBLEM IS AT NIGHT.
WE CAN ONLY USE THE ROOMS HERE DURING BREAK UNTIL 5. AFTERWARD WE'LL BE CHASED OUT.
WE HAVE TO THINK OF A PLACE WHERE WE CAN WORK...
EH, BUT THE BASKET-BALL CLUB STAYS.
THAT'S THE PREFAB BUILDING, WHICH WILL NEED A RE-QUEST OF NIGHTTIME USE BE-FOREHAND


THAT NIGHTTIME WHATEVER, IF WE GOT THAT, WE CAN STAY UNTIL NIGHTTIME.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHERE ARE THE REQUEST FORMS?
THEY SHOULD BE IN THE STAFF ROOM. NORMALLY, IT'S HANDED OUT BY THE ADVISING TEACHER.
I GOT IT!! THANK YOU.


AH ...
AS LONG AS THERE IS NO ADVISER FOR US AT THE MOMENT, NORMALLY, A PERMIT WILL NEVER COME DOWN FOR AN INTEREST GROUP...

SENSEI... SENSEI...
AH, THERE'S ONE!!
EH, A PERMIT TO USE THE CLUB BUILDING?
I CAN'T GIVE OUT OR SIGN ONE, SINCE I'M NOT THE ADVISER.
PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE
JEEZ. YOU, WHAT CLUB? WHO'S YOUR ADVISER?
ERM, I'M NOT IN IT, BUT IT'S FOR THE ANIME STUDY CLUB.
ANIME STUDY CLUB!!

AH!
STOP IT! I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH AN OTAKU'S DEN!
S-SORRY.
THIS ISN'T WHAT I MEANT...
KAI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH!
WAS THAT THE MATH TEACHER, IGARASHI-SENSEI?
DID YOU DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE HER HAVE HER EYES ON YOU?
EH, NOT REALLY.

I ONLY TRIED TO GET A PERMIT TO USE A CLUB ROOM.
HAH?
TO GET A PERMIT WITHOUT AN ADVISER IS IMPOSSIBLE
TO GET A PERMIT WITHOUT AN ADVISER IS IMPOSSIBLE?
SHE OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE SAID NO TO AN ANIME INTEREST GROUP RUN BY OTAKU'S.
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
I SEE... OTAKU'S GET HATED ON.
YOU'RE REALLY QUITE DISRESPECTFUL.
I SEE. FIRST, AN ADVISER...
AH! THEY'RE BACK.
KAI...

DID YOU NOT THINK AT ALL ABOUT THE FACT THAT I DIDN'T MAKE A REQUEST.
ERR...
YOUR BOYFRIEND'S AN IDIOT.
HAHA... I KIND OF KNEW
WELL, WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHERE TO DO THE REST OF THE ORIGINAL COPY.
CAN'T WE DO IT AT OUR OWN HOMES?
IT MIGHT BE OKAY FOR SHIROI-SAN, BUT FOR KOUKO-SAN...
DURING BREAK, MY SISTER'S KIDS COME OVER, AND IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO WORK ON THE ORIGINAL COPY.
THE CLUB ROOM IS USABLE DURING THE DAYTIME, BUT WITHOUT AN ADVISER IT CAN'T BE USED AT NIGHT...
THE LAST OPTION WOULD BE MY HOUSE...

UM ...
IF IT'S OKAY, HOW ABOUT MINE?
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GO TO HOMARE'S HOUSE.
IT'S NOT REALLY THAT SPACIOUS, AND THERE ARE REASONS...
THAT'S HARSH...
REASONS OR WHATEVER, ANYTHING WILL DO IT'LL DEFINITELY BE BETTER THAN GOING TO HOMARE'S PLACE.
THEN, WE'LL CONTINUE AT SHIROI-SAN'S PLACE.

EH, WHERE'S OKUDA?
NOT COMING. THERE'S NO POINT IN ALL OF US COMING.
HE'S GOING TO DO THE EDITING LATER.
THAT ASIDE, THIS IS AN AMAZING HOUSE.
SHIROI-SAN, WE'RE HERE.
OH, COME IN.
CHIEF TOO. I LIVE ALONE SO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

CHIEF?
WHY?!
WHY ARE YOU LIVING ALONE?! I'M SO JEALOUS.
UM, THAT'S...
SHE WAS ALWAYS AT A GIRLS' SCHOOL, BUT FOR MANGA'S SAKE SHE WANTED TO GO TO A COED SCHOOL
SHE MADE THEM AGREE.
RIGHT?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT.
HEH, THEN YOUR FAMILY IS RICH.
NO, NOT MY FAMILY, BUT MY MALE COUSIN'S FAMILY.
I'M HAPPY THAT THEY'VE BEEN AFFECTIONATE TOWARDS ME EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL, BUT
FOR A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT TO LIVE IN SUCH A HIGH-CLASS MANSION IS HONESTLY BEING OVER-PROTECTIVE.
T-TRUE... IT'S IN FRONT OF THE STATION AND NEWLY BUILT.

THEN, I'LL GO BREW SOME TEA.
ALL RIGHT.
OK
THAT'S WHY, PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM THOSE THAT DON'T KNOW.
HEY.
A GIRL-FRIEND THAT LIVES ALONE, THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
Guwa!
I BET YOU'RE ALWAYS HANGING AROUND.
TH-THERE'S NO SUCH THING.
BLURB: AH. SO ENERGETIC
'CAUSE...
NOR DID WE GO ON A DATE SOME-WHERE FAR.
HONESTLY, DURING BREAK IT'S NOT LIKE WE MET UP FREQUENTLY,
GIRLS ALSO NEED THEIR FREE TIME.

HAA
DURING SUMMER BREAK, WE ALSO WENT TO THE SEA.
HOWEVER, GOING BACK TOGETHER, EATING TOGETHER, AND LOITERING AROUND...
JUST A N-NORMAL COUPLE, PROBABLY.
HMM,
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A RIAJU.
AH-AH.
IF ONLY I WERE AS CUTE AS SHIROI-SAN...
EVEN AS AN OTAKU DRAWING ERO-MANGA, YOU CAN STILL GET A BOYFRIEND...HOW NICE.
CHIEF IS CUTE TOO.
HAA, IDI-WHAT ARE YOU TAL-KING ABOUT!!
ASIDE FROM YOUR HEAD, EVEN YOUR EYES ARE BAD?
NO, MY EYES AREN'T BAD. BOTH EYES ARE 2.0.

Ka-i-kun-
What were you doing while I was making tea? Kai-kun.
AH! UH, THAT'S...
I'M JUST A BOTHER HERE, SO I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER!
JEEZ! KAI-KUN!
HAA, A NORMAL GUY IS QUITE INTERESTING
AS I THOUGHT?
EH...IS THIS BAD? AM I IN A PINCH?

I-IT'S NOT LIKE I'M INTERESTED IN KAI.
THE 2D IS LIKE MY LOVER.
EVEN IF I WERE INTERESTED IN BOYS, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN RELATIONSHIPS.
AS I THOUGHT, IF YOU DRAW MANGA YOU'LL BE INTERESTED IN BOYS?
HUH?
AH, Y-YEAH. INTERESTING, VERY INTERESTING.
I THOUGHT SO. I'M GLAD I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
THIS GIRL IS SCARY AT TIMES...

THEN, IT'S ABOUT TIME WE START? YOU USE A MONITOR, RIGHT?
AH...YEAH, IF YOU CAN LEND ONE THAT'D BE NICE.
There're a lot of books
Um the monitor is this one
OH, WHERE'S SHIROI-SAN TODAY?
DIDN'T NEE-CHAN SAY NOT TO MEET EVERY DAY JUST BECAUSE IT'S SUMMER BREAK?
THAT'S RIGHT
IF YOU DON'T GIVE GIRLS THEIR FREEDOM, THEIR MAIDEN MIND WILL DIE AND THEY'LL TURN INTO AN OLD LADY
SO? WHERE'S SHIROI-SAN...?

NO USE OF AN ERASER AT ALL.
WOW, THIS REALLY IS THE DIGITAL GENER-ATION
CHIEF IS FULLY DIGITAL, AND SHIROI-SAN JUST TRACES THE ROUGH SKETCH
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN HELP WITH?
UGH. TODAY SHE'S PULLING AN ALL-NIGHTER WITH THE CHIEF TO FINISH THE MANUSCRIPT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE FOOD.
THE ONLY THING I CAN SERIOUSLY DO IS "NOT BOTHER" THEM.
OKUDA IS EDITING AND SENDING THE MATERIALS TO THE PRESS AND WHATNOT AFTER THE MANUSCRIPT IS DONE.
ALL RIGHT, NEE-CHAN HAS AN IDEA.

AH... KAI-KUN...
NEE-CHAN MADE THIS MIDNIGHT SNACK.
WAH
I'M GRATEFUL, BUT IF I EAT I'LL FALL ASLEEP RIGHT NOW.
SAY, I AM REALLY SL-E-E-PY.
I'M REALLY HUNGRY TOO, BUT NO. IF I EAT I'LL JUST SLEEP.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
EH.
WAH, HOT COFFEE.
WHAT'S THIS HERE?

ALMOST DONE, RIGHT? KEEP AT IT, KAI'S SISTER!!
THERE'S RED BEAN JAM, CHOCK-MINT, WASABI, AND GREEN CHILI PEPPERS INSIDE!!
TH-THIS IS A RUSSIAN ROULETTE BENTO.
IT'S A REAL SUR-PRISE.
LET'S EAT ON THE COUNT OF THREE.
ONE-TWO-THREE!

I'M AWAKE. GOING TO CONTINUE.
ONEE-SAN, NICE JOB ...
KAI-KUN, TALK ABOUT SOMETHING.
ANYTHING.
HMM, EVEN IF YOU SAY ANYTHING ...
UM, KIND OF LATE FOR THIS, BUT THE MANUSCRIPT IS QUITE GRUELING.
SHIROI-SAN'S ALWAYS HAPPY TALKING ABOUT MANGA.
I THOUGHT THAT DRAWING WOULD BE EASY TOO.

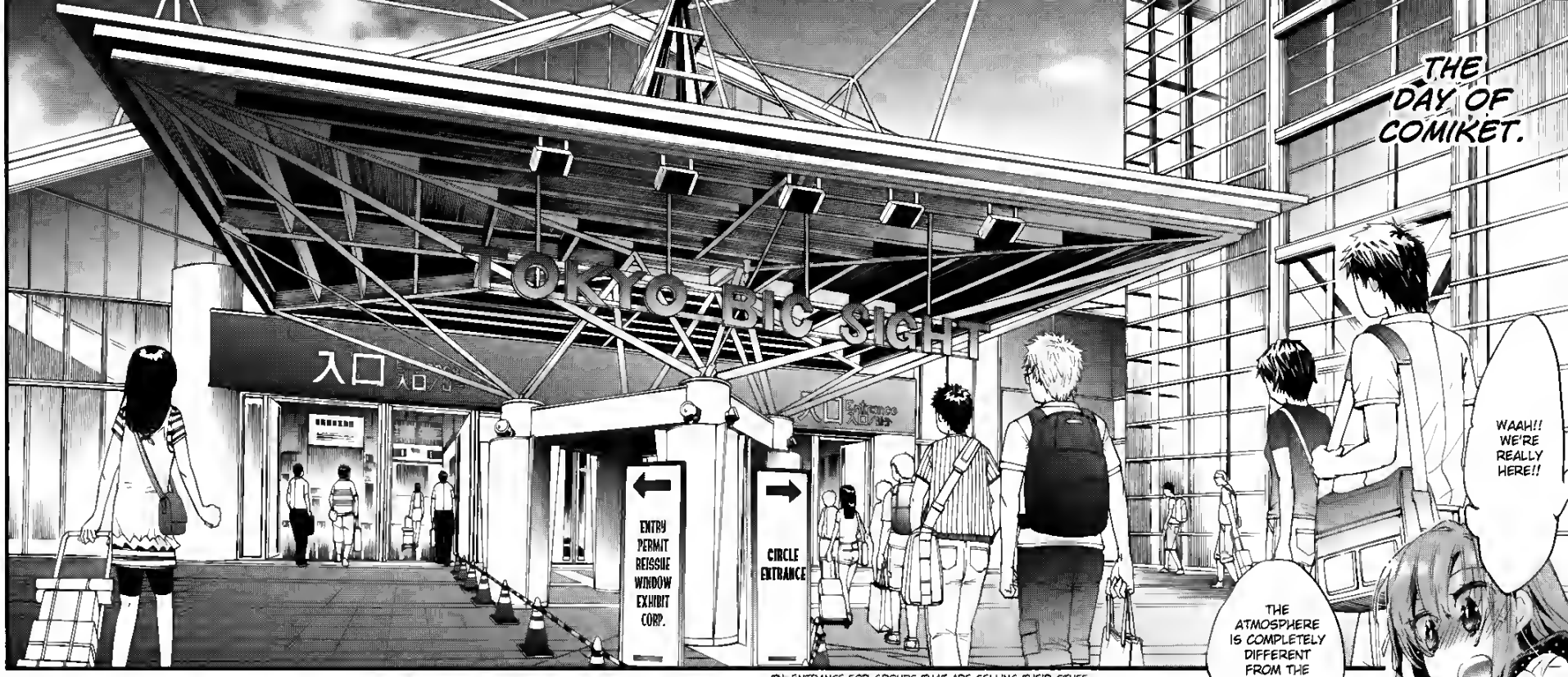
REALLY...
IT IS ENJOYABLE NOW TOO.
REALLY ...
IF WE WEREN'T RACING TO HAVE IT "DONE IN TIME," IT WOULD BE MORE ENJOYABLE.
HAHAHA
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T EVEN BELIEVE IT YOURSELF.
I WOULD GO BACK AND TELL MYSELF, "YOU HAVE SUCH A GREAT THING LIKE THIS WAITING FOR YOU 1 YEAR LATER."
I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED CREATING A MANUSCRIPT TOGETHER WITH THE CHIEF AND KAI-KUN ONE YEAR AGO.
SHIROI-SAN, WHAT WERE YOU DOING 1 YEAR AGO?

MHMMM.
I CAN'T EXPLAIN VERY WELL, BUT I WAS FIGHTING, I GUESS?
AH, NOT LIKE REAL FIGHTING, BUT THE REBELLIOUS AGE? THAT SORT OF THING.
IT WAS A TIME WHEN A LOT WAS GOING ON WITH MY PARENTS.
BACK THEN, I'M NOT SURE IF I WOULD'VE GOTTEN ALONG WITH EVERYONE.
SO, YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING ALONG NOW, HUH.
UU, CHIEF YOU'RE SO MEAN.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW?

WE ONLY KNOW THE YOU NOW.
THE YOU IN THE PAST ISN'T CAUSING ME ANY PROBLEMS, SO I WOULDN'T MIND OR BOTHER TO CARE AT ALL.
O-OH, THANKS.
I ALSO WOULDN'T MIND NO MATTER HOW EVIL CHIEF IS.
YOU JUST BLATANTLY SAID SOMETHING RUDE.
UFUFU, AHAHA.
I...
I'M REALLY CURIOUS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO SHIROI-SAN ONE YEAR AGO?

We-I done!
SFX: BOBBLE
YO!
SFX: DIE
AAH, SO HOPELESS...
I'M SO TRIVIAL.
KAI-KUN.
UM,
THIS IS JUST MY SELFISHNESS.
OKAY.
THEN, GOOD NIGHT.
SFX: FWAH

I HOPE I CAN BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU.
SOMEDAY ...
ニャ
ニャ
すーっ
トラン
ぎゅっ
AND


THE DAY OF COMIKET.
TOKYO BIG SIGHT
入口
ENTRY PERMIT REISSUE WINDOW EXHIBIT CORP.
CIRCLE ENTRANCE
WAAH!! WE'RE REALLY HERE!!
THE ATMOSPHERE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE EVENT THAT I WENT TO LAST TIME.
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE LINING UP TOO.
OH YEAH! OKUDA-KUN SAID THAT
THE BOOKS BY CHIEF AND OTHERS HERE ARE DONE BY THE SAME OFFSET PRINTING FOR THE CURRENT MONTHLY MAGAZINES!!
REALLY!! THAT'S AMAZING.
THAT'S RIGHT!!! THAT'S WHY THE CONDITION IS THE SAME AS IF WE'VE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINES ..
AH, NO! I'M GETTING ALL NERVOUS ON MY OWN NOW!
AND THAT'S GOING TO BE SEEN BY EVERYONE HERE...
AMAZING! AND KIND OF SCARY...

TN: ENTRANCE FOR GROUPS THAT ARE SELLING THEIR STUFF

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
SHIROI-SAN WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
YEAH.
DO YOUR BEST HELPING OUT TODAY.
Their hands...
Rieju...
Tch, Rieju...
Hands...
CHAPTER 9 END

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